



EXTRA

Criminal & Juvenile Justice Information Advisory Group Meeting November 8, 2019

Volume 4 Issue 3

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2020 U.S. Census: Challenges and Opportunities

The Advisory Group heard a presentation on the 2020 United States Census by David Wakely, Assistant Director of Census Operations at the State Demographics Center.

The United States Census is a decennial census mandated by the U. S. Constitution. The stakes of an accurate, complete census include equal representation, fair distribution of resources, and accurate population data for policymakers, businesses, and organizations to make smart decisions.

After the last census in 2010, Minnesota was 8,739 people away from losing a congressional seat. A lost congressional seat has wide ranging ramifications, affecting redistricting all the way down to the precinct level, burdening especially rural areas with longer distances between constituents and their political representatives, and affecting federal funding based on census data. Minnesota currently receives \$15.5 billion in population-based federal funding. Businesses and non-profits also use census data to make decisions—for example, where Target puts a new store is based in part on local population.

The State Demographics Center predicts that about 965,000 people in Minnesota will not respond voluntarily to the census form, meaning that census workers will need to engage with them face-to-face to count their households. Historically undercounted communities include renters, minorities, immigrants and mobile populations. There is also a distrust among certain individuals and groups toward government questionnaires.

The State Demographics Center encourages other state agencies to get the word out to improve

Have a question or suggestion?

Contact Matthew Pizza (651-793-2595 or matthew.pizza@state.mn.us) for more information

Minnesota's response rate (in 2010, Wisconsin was number one, Minnesota number two).

The census collection effort will require hiring 7,500 temporary employees in Minnesota, and it's critical that this is a diverse workforce, as a diverse group of census workers will help overcome trust problems inherent in the collection process and will improve the response rate.

Resources and contact information are available on the [State Demographic Center Website](#).

Questioned Identity Presentation

BCA Product Manager Carla Duellman provided an overview to the Advisory Group of the problems posed by the 4,700 Minnesotans with questioned identity—a tally growing by 250 per year.

Questioned identity starts when a person either knowingly or unknowingly uses another person's identifying information. The victim (the person whose name was used) is now a part of the criminal record, listed as an alias. When the victim's name is searched, that criminal record will show up. This can negatively affect their housing and employment opportunities.

Currently, victims of questioned identity can contact the BCA and fill out a *Questioned Identity Initial Report* form. After the victim is fingerprinted they will receive a letter that serves as proof that they've been misidentified with a criminal record. The BCA receives 70 requests per year for such letters. Despite receiving the letter, the alias will remain on the criminal record (per federal requirements), even if it is removed from public availability. The burden remains entirely on the victim to seek out a solution, and with private data collection companies collecting massive amounts of information, it may be extremely difficult for a victim to completely clear their name.

Note: The information in this publication is an unofficial summary of activity. It should not be considered official meeting minutes or an official program status report. Information subject to change.

Minnesota Justice Information Services – 1430 Maryland Ave. E. – St. Paul, Minnesota 55106 – bca.dps.mn.gov

Subcommittee Updates

Data & Identification Standards

Subcommittee member Chief Jeff McCormick spoke with the Advisory Group about issues surrounding questioned identity, continuing the questions and discussions stemming from Carla Duellman's presentation.

Difficulties arise from inconsistent standards and practices in how the criminal justice community verifies identity. Law enforcement typically views identity as a name and date of birth. At the BCA, biometrics are definitive identifiers. In the court system, biometrics are required on an inconsistent basis to verify a person's identity.

The Advisory Group discussed requiring a fingerprint at first encounter with law enforcement to fix the problem, but also the potential for privacy concerns from that kind of approach.

The subcommittee going forward will focus on Rapid ID as a partial remedy for the issue and discuss any potential future recommendation for the legislature. The subcommittee will also focus on the victimization aspect of questioned identity.

Data Practices

The subcommittee is brainstorming about what to focus on over the next year or two and will have more to report at the next meeting. The subcommittee reiterated its request for additional members.

Collaborative Relationships & Funding

The subcommittee is continuing its work on ensuring that the open seats on the Advisory Group are filled with the right representatives.

Advisory Group Announcements

- Members are encouraged to submit a [Legislative Budget Request Form](#) (PDF) if they have any funding requests that they would like the Advisory Group to support.
- BCA/Judicial Branch announcement: The new Harassment Restraining Orders (HROs) process will be implemented statewide in December following a brief pilot launch. Initially, all new and modified HROs will be entered into the Minnesota Hot Files. A plan for entering all active HROs is underway and expected sometime in 2020.
- The Advisory Group bids farewell to outgoing chair Amy Schmidt. Amy has been a member of the Task Force and then the Advisory Group since 2012. We thank her for her service.
- If you are interested in the second vice chair position on the Advisory Group, please contact Dana Gotz by December. It is a minimal time commitment, but an essential position for the group.

Next Advisory Group Meeting

Friday, February 14, 2020

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
Room W277

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